DARK HORSE MANGA
BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL
38
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LIGHT AND SHADOW ONE SHOT
HIROAKI SAMURA
BLADE
OF THE IMMORTAL
DIRECT SALES

BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL

art and story by

HIROAKI SAMURA

CAST OF CHARACTERS

-sumire-
Immortal Scanner

-jinchi
Nice enough to distro the stuff

THE STORY SO FAR

- Series: Blade of the Immortal
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- Chapter: 088
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Since, Jinchi disappeared distro is gonna be hard. Just look for the usual places I guess.
Btw if you haven't got them already. S Sisters v01c01-03 has been released and also a few chapters of gto vol 14. Vol 12-15 will be released in one shot. Maybe today,-maybe tommorrow- who knows-

ENJOY!

BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL

art and story by

HIROAKI SAMURA

translation by

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lettering and retouch by

TOMOKO SAITO

CAST OF CHARACTERS

MANJI
Immortal rōnin

RIN
Last heir of the Mutenichi *ryū dōjō* destroyed by Itto-ryū

ANOTSU
The leader of the Itto-*ryū* sword school

THE STORY SO FAR

Infected by *kessenchu* mystical bloodworms which can heal all wounds and grant their host immortality Manji s bloodthirst led to the capture and murder of his s ster To atone for the 100 good people who died at his hand under his corrupt lord Manji vowed to slay 1 000 evil men in exchange for the release of death

Two years earlier when her parents were murdered on her fourteenth birthday by Anotsu Kagehisa s Itto *ryū* swordsmen Rin Asano became part of a mad revenge cycle which began when Anotsu s grandfather was thrown out of the Asano clan s Mutenichi *ryū dōjō* fifty years before A quest for vengeance was instilled in Anotsu a similar quest now haunts Rin Upon learning of Manji she enlisted his aid to destroy the Itto *ryū* and avenge her parents.

After leaving Manji to complete her quest alone Rin prevails over great hardships and comes into a strange uneasy alliance with Anotsu In order to survive while on the run in Kaga After assassins from Kensui s sword school attempt to kill them Anotsu returns to his supposed friend for an explanation Unable to deal with the fact that the he was forced to betray Anotsu Kensui commits suicide as does Hisoka Anotsu s new wife Rin and Anotsu are now trying to flee Kaga with a band of Kensui s students on their trail stopping only when Anotsu tracks down his heart s true desire Makie a much respected swordswoman who once bested Manji in battle After saving her life and continuing on their journey Anotsu collapses apparently from a mysterious illness

designer DEBRA BAILEY editor PHILIP SIMON publisher MIKE RICHARDSON

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無限の住人

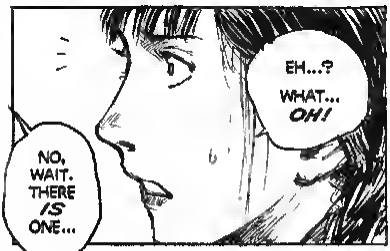
LIGHT AND SHADOW

"TETANUS"
...?!
I...
I BELIEVE SO.

BUT... JUST OUT OF THE BLUE?
OH... I GUESS NOT

BUT HOW ?!
WE ATE THE SAME FOOD... WHY JUST YOU?!

...I STILL SEE NO REASON...
IDIOT! YOU GET TETANUS FROM WOUNDS, NOT FOOD! BUT EVEN SO...


EH...? WHAT... OH!
NO, WAIT. THERE IS ONE...

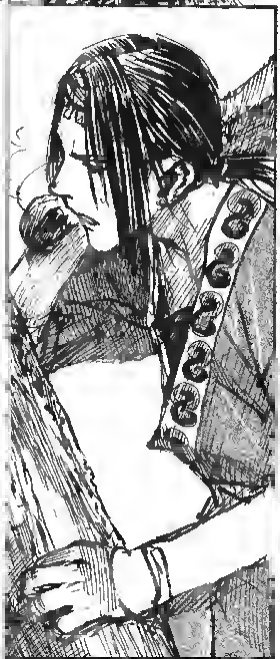
"TWO DAYS AGO...?!"

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... THAT LITTLE SCRATCH ?!
YES. I KNOW.
UNLESS YOU'RE INCREDIBLY UNLUCKY, A SWORD CUT SHOULDN'T CAUSE THIS.
BUT THERE IS A WAY TO IMPROVE THE ODDS.
IT WAS A COMMON TRICK, BACK IN THE DAYS OF CIVIL WAR...
"SOAK YOUR SWORD OR SPEAR IN A PIT TOILET OVERNIGHT. WIPE LIGHTLY, AND SHEATH.
"OF COURSE, IT DULLS AND RUSTS THE BLADE.
"BUT IN RETURN YOU GET A DEADLY WEAPON FOR DELIVERING PESTILENCE TO YOUR FOES.
"ON THE BATTLEFIELD, AN ILL OR INJURED FOE CAN BE MORE VALUABLE TO YOU THAN A DEAD ONE.
"THE SICK PERSON TIES UP HIS COMRADES AS WELL."

BUT SUCH TRICKS ARE MEANINGLESS IN A DUEL.
THEY MUST JUST WANT TO GET ME, REGARDLESS OF HOW.
SO... WHAT WILL YOU DO? BACK TO SHIRAKAWA...?
DON'T BE STUPID! WE KEEP MOVING!
IN YOUR CONDITION? WHO'S BEING STUPID, HERE?
I HAVE TO GET BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THE EVENTS OF THESE LAST FEW DAYS... ALARM ME.
I THINK THEY WANT MORE THAN MY LIFE.
EVEN AS WE SIT, BACK IN EDO...
.....
BACK IN EDO WHAT?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, GIRL.

SO. HOW ABOUT IT?
ISN'T THIS THE PERFECT CHANCE...?
IF YOU WANT TO KILL SOMEONE YOU NORMALLY COULDN'T BEAT...
...WHAT BETTER TIME THAN WHEN HE'S SICK?
MAYBE SO. BUT... NOT NOW.
I UNDERSTAND NOW. I REALLY DO. DAYDREAMS WON'T CUT IT ANY MORE.

OR, ANYWAY... HEH HEH
...NOT AS LONG AS YOU CAN *WALK*.
BUT! IF THAT TETANUS STUFF GETS WORSE...
...AND YOU CAN'T EVEN GET UP... THEN... WHO *KNOWS*?
I MEAN, *HONESTLY* SPEAKING? I THINK, IF I TRAINED AND TRAINED FOR TEN *YEARS* OR SO...
...THEN, PROBABLY... I *STILL* WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST YOU.
I'M IN NO RUSH. I'VE GOT *LOTS* OF TIME...
NO POSING ANY MORE... JUST *WAITING*. THAT'S ME.
HMM. AN *HONEST* GIRL.



AH...!
.....
.....

UM...
YOU OKAY?

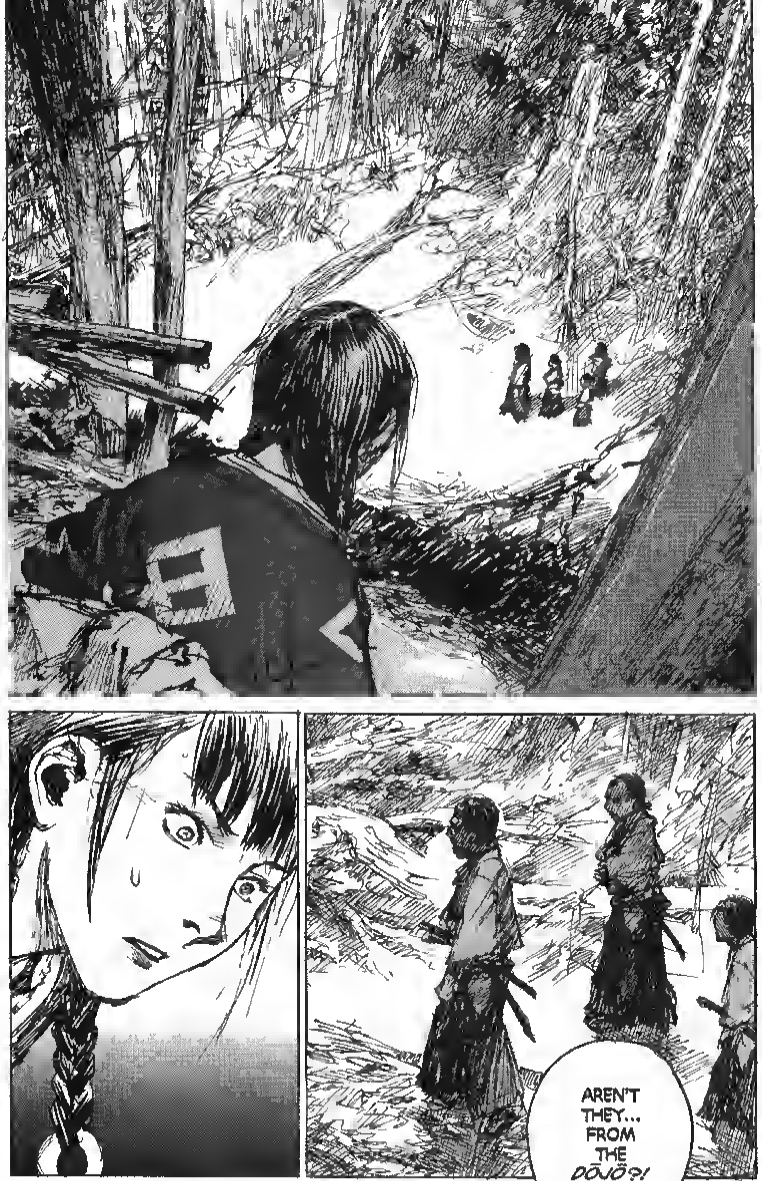
HEH HEH...
HEARING YOU WORRY ABOUT ME... MAKES ME... REALLY FEEL LIKE SHIT.

YEAH.
YEAH, GUESS IT WOULD.

SO LIKE, I'M JUST GUESSING, BUT...
...DOES IT HURT TO TALK?

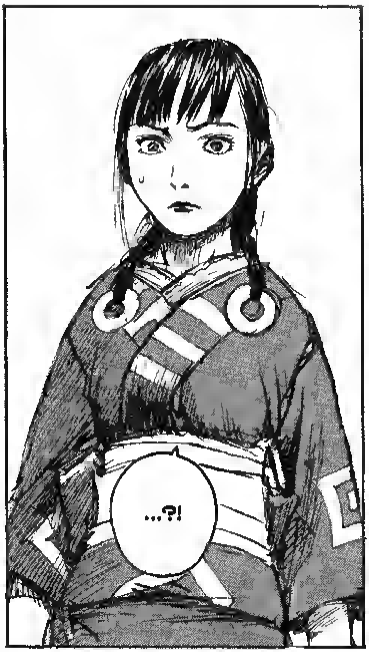
I'VE HEARD OF THAT.
OH... LOCK-JAW ?!
THAT'S WHY I CAN TELL IT'S LOCKJAW. AS THE DISEASE PROGRESSES, IT AFFECTS THE... MUSCLES OF THE JAW. EVENTUALLY... WON'T BE ABLE TO TALK AT ALL.
YOU NOTICED ...?
...IT IS A WEAPON OF WAR. AND I...HAVE STUDIED WAR ALL MY LIFE.
THE CORE PHILOSOPHY OF THE ITTŌ-RYŪ IS... "WHATEVER WORKS."
BUT... I DON'T GET IT.
AS I TOLD YOU...
FOR SOMEONE RAISED IN A SAMURAI HOUSEHOLD, YOU SURE KNOW A LOT ABOUT IT. I MEAN, ISN'T IT A FARMER'S DISEASE...?
SO I... ....

WE'RE
.....
.....
SILENCE!
LOOK OVER THE RIDGE... BUT STAY DOWN!
BUT WHAT--
-MGMPH!-


AREN'T THEY... FROM THE DŌJŌ?!

YES...THE TRUE FACE OF OUR ATTACKERS.
WH... WHAT DO WE DO?
HIDE UNTIL THEY LEAVE?!
.....
.....
NO... H- HOPE- LESS.
FOR... VARIOUS REASONS...
...THEY HAVE NOWHERE TO GO HOME TO.
I'M SURE THEY'VE STAKED OUT EVERY ROUTE... THEY'LL CHASE ME ALL THE WAY TO EDO.
AND AS WEAKENED AS I AM NOW...CAN'T POSSIBLY EVADE THEM ALL.

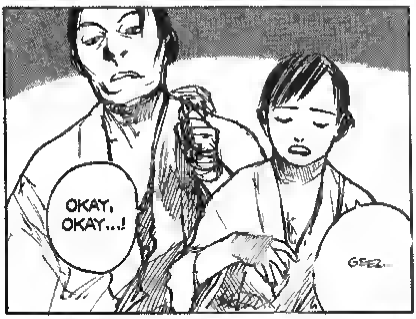
SOMETIME, SOMEWHERE... I'LL HAVE TO FIGHT.
SO IT MUST TO BE HERE AND NOW... WHILE I CAN STILL MOVE!
BUT... CAN YOU STILL WIN?
I... I DON'T KNOW.
THESE AREN'T MEN I COULD TAKE IN A SINGLE BREATH...
...EVEN AT THE BEST OF TIMES.
AND NOW, IF I FACE THEM ONE BY ONE... I'LL RUN OUT OF ENERGY BEFORE THEY'RE ALL DOWN.
SHEESH... YOU'RE AWFULLY CALM ABOUT IT.
SO... THAT MEANS IT'S HOPELESS?
NO... THERE'S STILL ONE POSSIBLE PATH TO VICTORY.
REMEMBER... WHAT I SAID IN THE CAVE?


...?!

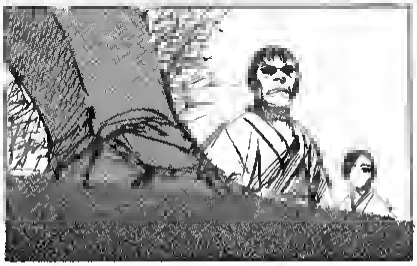
YEAH... THEY FOUND HIS BLOOD ON ONE OF THEIR SWORDS.
NAW. NOT LIKELY.
YOU THINK WE PASSED 'EM?

HE AIN'T GONNA BE MOVIN' TOO FAST... NOT WITH LOCKJAW.
AND EVEN IF HE COULD, HE KNOWS WE'D BLOCK ALL THE PATHS TO EDO.
JUST WASTED EFFORT. AND HE DOESN'T WASTE EFFORT, NOT THAT GUY.
.....
.....
GEEZ... TEN DAYS AGO WE WERE JUST RUNNING AROUND ON TATAMI, SWINGING BOKUTO ALL DAY.
HOW'D WE END UP LIKE THIS?!
SEE?! I FRIGGIN' TOLD YOU GUYS!
"THAT DUDE FROM EDO IS BAD NEWS, MAN," I TOLD YA!
WILL YOU ASSHOLES JUST SHUT UP?!
OKAY ...?!
MAN!
NOW REMEMBER! WHEN YOU SEE THE BASTARD, NO SHOWING OFF!
MASS ATTACK! TOGETHER!

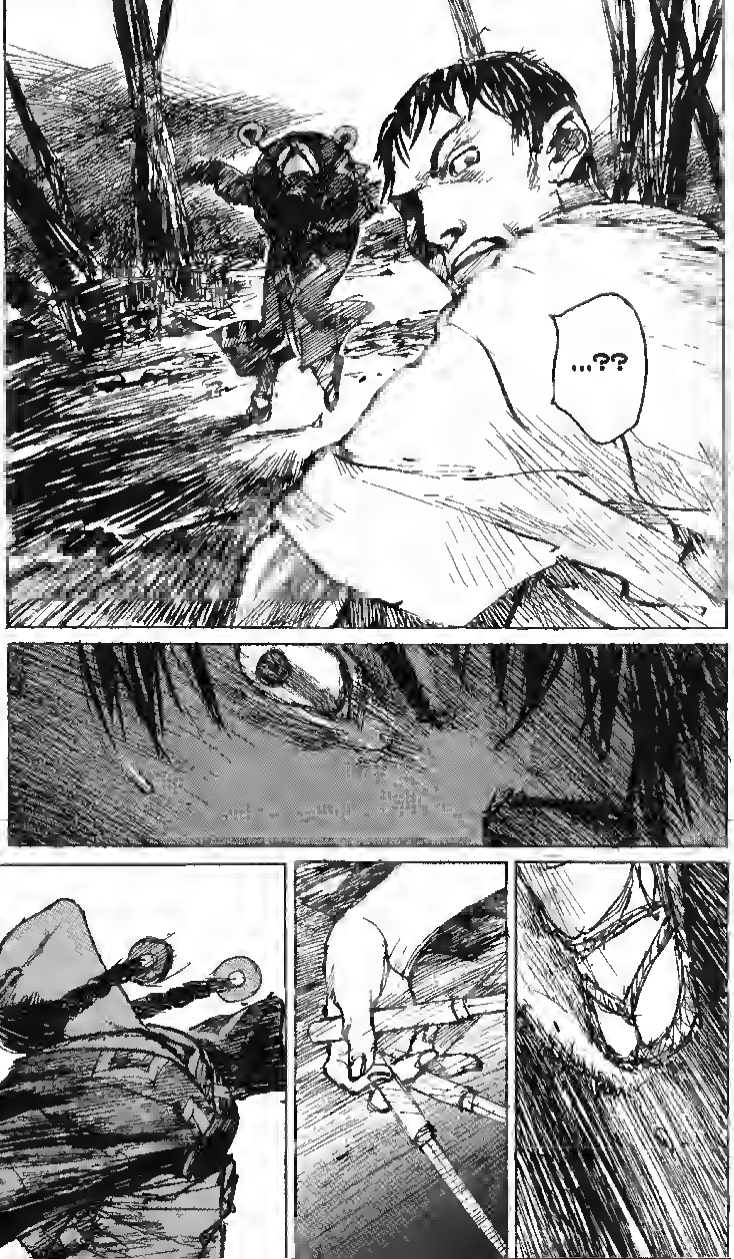
THIS ISN'T A DUEL, IT'S A FUNERAL!
WE'VE GOT TO TAKE HIM, OUTCLASSED OR NOT.


OKAY, OKAY...!
GEEZ...

HUH?
WHAT'S WITH THAT BROAD ...?



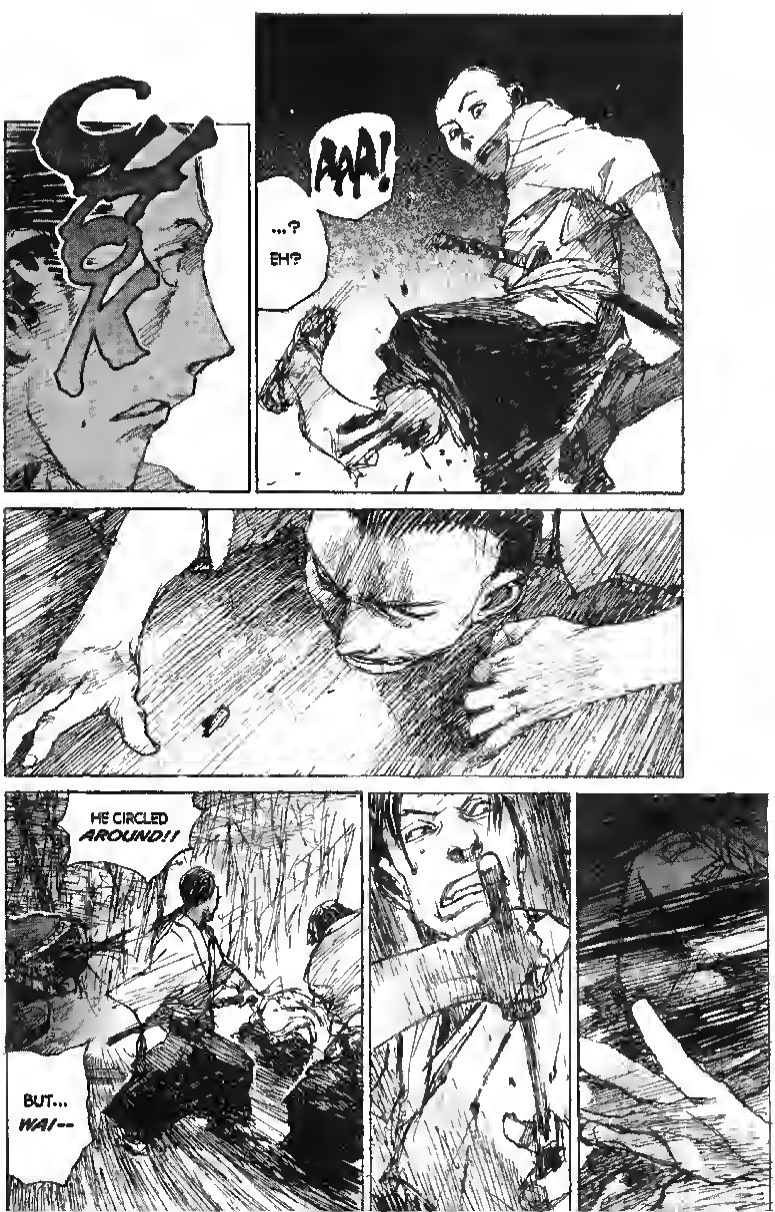
SHE'S CHECKING US OUT, DUDE... THINK SHE WANTS SOME-THING?
HEH HEH MAYBE SHE'S LOOKING FOR A BOYFRIEND! ♥
.....
.....
AHH?!
I KNOW HER!!
?!
WHY, YOU--!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE!
GRAB HER, YOU IDIOTS!! SHE'S ANOTSU'S SPY!!
WHA--?!
AH?!



AUUGH!
KLANG!
.....
.....!
AAH...
AAH!

YOU
LITTLE
BITCH!

WHAT TH--
HUH...?
UH--
AGGH!
WSSH
WH- WHAT?! WHO--


AAA!
...?
EH?
HE CIRCLED AROUND!!
BUT...
WAI--

SPANGG
!!
NNG!
AUGGH!

UH...
.....
LET'S GO.
AHH.. NNG..
ANOTSU KAGEHISA!
THIS ISN'T OVER, YOU BASTARD!
IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU... THE MASTER AND THE MISTRESS...
...THEY NEVER WOULD HAVE...

WE'LL KILL YOU, ANOTSU KAGEHISA!!
WE'LL FIND YOU! WE'LL GET YOU!

HMM. YOU SURPRISED ME.
EH?

THAT RISKY STRATEGY... .....
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D AGREE SO EASILY.

AFTER ALL... IF I COULDN'T KILL THEM ALL, AND THEY GOT ME... WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

WELL, YEAH... THAT'S TRUE. FOR SURE.
SO... WHY, I WONDER?
MAYBE...
...'CAUSE IT'D PISS ME OFF!
YOU GETTING YOURSELF KILLED WHEN IT DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH MY STUFF!
YOU KNOW... YOU'RE SOME PIECE OF WORK, GIRL.
WHY, THANK YOU, SIR! SO VERY MUCH!
TO BE CONTINUED...!

NEXT MONTH:
Crossroads

"Crossroads" is a telling title for our next quirky issue of *Blade of the Immortal*. Known for its cast of vibrant punk rock characters, *Blade* promises a future chock full of new color with this chapter. We're introduced to bizarre new members of the Itto *ryū* and their odd hairstyles, costumes, and weapons, as players in the secret outcast Mugai-*ryū* crew conspire in the background. Also with their flight towards Edo interrupted by Anotsu's illness, will Rin finally take this opportunity to end his life — or will she wind up defending it? Hiroaka Samura is about to turn his Samurai epic in a strange new direction!